



AFZX-SA

# SAFETY ALERT

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER & FORT POLK  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

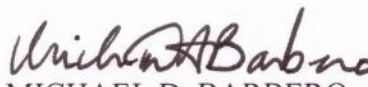


### MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Accident -- Safety Alert 04-02

1. A Soldier was involved in a motorcycle accident last week in Leesville. He was struck from behind by a driver who was under the influence. This was unfortunate, but it reinforces the use of wearing the proper clothing and equipment covered in JRTC and Fort Polk Regulation 385-4.
2. What was the driving mistake? The Soldier was not at fault and did not commit any driving errors. He had completed a motorcycle rider safety course and was wearing all the proper clothing and equipment, which included: approved helmet, reflective belt, over the ankle boots, long sleeve shirt, pants, and gloves.
3. Lessons learned from this accident are as follows:
  - a. Motorcycles have a very low profile and cannot be easily seen at times. Riders should expect the unexpected and should have 360 degrees of situational awareness.
  - b. Wearing all the proper clothing and equipment can reduce the severity of the injuries.
  - c. The reason this Soldier is alive is because he was wearing the proper equipment. Because of this, he will be able to ride his motorcycle again.
4. Soldiers should understand the importance of wearing the proper clothing and equipment. This accident proves that with the proper equipment, lives can be saved. Remember to comply with all motorcycle riding standards and practice risk management on and off duty.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!**

  
MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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